

A Very Practical Joke.

The following capital story of President Maxey is told by "some who know." On one occasion several students of South Carolina College resolved to drag the doctor's carriage into the woods, and fixed upon a night for the performance of the exploit. One of their number, however, was troubled with some convulsive visitings, and managed to convey to the worthy president a hint that it would be well for him to secure the door of his carriage-house. Instead of paying any heed to this suggestion, the doctor proceeded upon the appointed night to the carriage-house and encosed the portly person within the vehicle. In less than an hour some half a dozen young gentlemen came to his retreat and cautiously withdrew the carriage into the road. When they were fairly out of the College precincts they began to joke freely with each other by name. One of them complained of the weight of the carriage, and the other replied by swearing that it was heavy enough to have the old fellow himself in it. For nearly a mile they proceeded along the highway, and then struck into the woods, to a cover which they concluded would effectually conceal the vehicle. Making themselves infinitely merry at the doctor's expense, conjecturing how and when would he find his carriage, they at length reached the spot where they had resolved to leave it. Just as they were about to depart, having once more agreed that "the carriage was heavy enough to have the old doctor and all his tribe in it" they were startled by the sudden dropping of one of the glass door panels, and the well-known voice of the doctor himself then addressed them: "So, so, young gentlemen you are going to leave me in the woods are you? Surely as you have brought me hither for your own gratification, you will not refuse to take me back for mine. Come Messrs. —, and —, and —, buckle up, and let us return; it's getting late." There was no appeal; for the window was raised, and the doctor resumed his seat. Almost without a word the discomfited young gentlemen took their places at the pole, at the back of the vehicle, and quite expeditiously, if with less voice, did they retraced their course. In silence they dragged the carriage to its wonted place, and then retreated precipitately to their rooms to dream of the account they must render on the morrow. When they had gone, the doctor quietly vacated the carriage and went to his house where he related the story to his family with much glee. He never called the heroes of that nocturnal expedition an account, nor was the carriage ever afterwards dragged at night into the woods.

The President and His Accusers.

As to the objections to Gen. Grant's course on public affairs, we do not profess to answer them now; we merely repeat our own opinion that in the main his policy is a sound, wise and beneficial one. A man of purer private life than General Grant never occupied the Presidential chair. Is it just—is it worthy of the President's position or of this great nation—that he should be called to account at any moment by every disappointed office seeker who chooses to invent a new slander against him? We have replied to these charges because, by constant repetition, they might have imposed upon credulous minds. The more thoroughly they are sifted, the more shamefully false and malicious they will appear. We believe that a majority of the people look upon these calumnies with indignation. They have made thousands of friends for the President among that quiet and thoughtful class of the community which rarely busies itself actively in politics, but which admires plain and simple in public men, which hates to see injustice done, and which despises the towards who try to undermine a public reputation by designing private character. Whatever rejected office seekers, like the calumniators of the Sun, may do or say, the great majority of the American people are lovers of fair play; and they will honor General Grant all the more because he goes on steadily doing his work, in disregard of the insults and taunts of men who hate him because he will not yield to their demands. New York Times.

A GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.

There is nothing which adds so much to the beauty and powers of a man as a good moral character. It is wealth—his influence—his life. It dignifies him in every station, exalts him in every condition and glorifies him in every period of his life. Such a character is more to be desired than anything else on earth. It makes a man free and independent. No servile tool, no cringing sycophant, no treacherous honor seeker, ever bore such a character. The pure joys of truth and righteousness never spring in such persons. If young men only knew how much a good character would dignify and exalt them, how glad they would make their prospects, even in this life, never should we find them yielding to groveling and base purposes of human nature which destroy body and soul.

Judge Chambers, of the Belmont county, Ohio, Common Pleas Court, is an "old bachelor." At a party in St. Charlesville, the other evening, a young lady was standing in the draught, when the Judge stepped up and remarked, "Miss —, I will protect you from the draught with my person." She replied, "Do you promise always thus to guard and protect me?" Through his proverbial gallantry he replied, "I do." Extending her hand, she remarked: "Judge, you will recollect this is leap year." The Judge was for a moment nonplussed, but finally succeeded in saying, "You must ask my mother." If the old lady is alive he is a gonner, if not, he is safe.

It is a curious fact about a certain class of beggars that they generally pull the door bell hard enough to break it, and when you go to the door, they hardly have strength enough to speak above a whisper.

Temperance in France.

The temperance cause has the prospect of a new and important impulse from a quite unexpected source. The French would be the last people, we might suppose, to favor or even understand the temperance movement. Any attempt on purely moral grounds, to win their favor for it, would be a certain "fizzle." They would shrug their shoulders after the politest national manner, and drink to your health more deeply than ever. But they are a scientific nation, and the people have profound respect for their sciences. It is, therefore, a hopeful sign of the times that the scientific men of the country have addressed themselves to the subject with real and practical earnestness. They are not content, like similar men in other countries, with deciding the question of the good or ill effects of intoxicating drink, but deciding this, they have actually "gone into" the temperance reform. The famous French Academy of Medicine has discussed the subject in repeated reports by leading members. The result is that it has vested in a committee power to issue in its name a "warning" to the country. The document is an exhibit of the disastrous physical effects of intemperance, startling enough. It is said, to make a Frenchman shrug his shoulders in a new style. Half a million copies are to be scattered over the republic, and probably its circulation will reach millions, before the agitation is over. In the present saddened temper of the French, and their need of economical reform, it is to be hoped that this notable appeal will have considerable effect. It may prepare the way for the temperance operations—perhaps for such as have kept up the reform in England and America. For the present it is indisputably the best measure for Frenchmen.

Drunken Legislators.

The shame and disgrace of Government—State and national—are drunken legislators. It is notorious that sober, temperate men are the exception among our members of Congress, and also in many of our State Legislatures. And these are the men who make, break, and prevent our laws; who, filling places of trust, are easily corrupted, and so bring disgrace on our democratic institutions. Men who can not, will not, or do not control their own appetites and propensities are permitted to fill places of trust while they do not control or regulate themselves! How preposterous! Is there cause for surprise at the predictions so often expressed, that we—our American institutions—are going to the dogs? Can a drunken man be trusted to navigate the ship of state when he would inevitably run on the rocks or reefs, and strand his ship, and sink all who were so unfortunate as to be with him? And yet we do elect and trust just such drunkards to be our captains. Why? Are there not enough clean, honest and intelligent men to serve us in these respects? Would we suffer our personal business interests to be thus jeopardized? Would we employ for clerks, salesmen, book-keepers, or cashiers habitual or even occasional drunkards? If we did we should deserve the fate we courted or tempted. No. For our personal confidential servants, we should take care that they were altogether trustworthy and self-controlling. We should require them to be above suspicion, and on the first drunken spree would throw them out of place, not to be trusted more, until the evidences of reform were unmistakable.

Citizens have been criminally careless. They have not attended to the selection of the BEST MEN IN THE NATION for the most important and RESPONSIBLE OFFICES IN THE NATION, and hence our present disgraceful dilemma. But the ship of state has not yet foundered; she has encountered three storms; has been in imminent peril; on her beam-ends; but by the temperance, intelligence, and good management of some of her officers, and by the grace of God, she has righted, and rode out the storms. Let us not again put out to sea with unworthy seamen. We can have the best as cheaply as the worst, and in the end they prove much cheaper; for in the latter case there will be no plundering, stealing or robbing, and we shall not live in the constant fear of shipwreck. "Weed them out." In all communities, in all societies, among all bodies of men, there will be found moral delinquents, intellectual imbeciles, and social lepers. They must be weeded out and cast aside, lest they choke or contaminate the true and pure. Then look out for the future, to see that only good men be chosen to represent us, make laws for us, and attend to our public affairs. We want only trusty, temperate, capable and judicious servants, and if we are wise we shall have them. Let no more drunkards, corruptionists, public thieves, libertines, or vagabond-disgrace us or our legislative bodies. —Phrenological Journal for January.

AGASSIZ.—There is a story of a shrewd agent who tried vainly to buy the great naturalist for a winter's lectures.

"Why, sir, you will make more money than by ten years of this work," he reasoned.

"But I have not the time to make money," said Agassiz.

When will that get out of America be born who will not have time to make money, and who will prefer deep sea dredging to building houses of sand on the shore?

"Do you allow any reduction to ministers?" said a young lady to salesman in a well known sewing machine agency on Washington street, Boston, the other day, where she had been trying to drive a bargain. "Oh, yes, always. Are you a minister's wife?" "Oh, no, I'm not married," said the lady, blushing. "Daughter then?" "No." The salesman looked puzzled. "I'm engaged to a theological student." The reduction was made.

A man arriving home at a late hour, a little the worse for too much supper, butless and content, was asked by his indignant spouse, "Where's your hat and coat?" Sent "em my dear tie to the Chicago sufferers."

Questions and Answers for the Sunday School.

- 1. Who was the first drunkard? (Gen. 9: 20, 26.)
2. Who took the first temperance pledge? (Judges 19: 13, 14.)
3. Did any body mentioned in the Bible ever take the pledge of his own accord? (Dan. 1: 8.)
4. Was he any healthier or wiser in consequence? (Dan. 1: 15-17.)
5. Ought kings to drink wine? (Prov. 31: 4.)
6. Ought priests to drink wine? (Lev. 10: 9.)
7. Ought we to make companions of drunkards? (1 Cor. 5: 11.)
8. Can any drunkard enter the kingdom of heaven? (1 Cor. 6: 10.)
9. Does God pronounce any warning upon the drunkards? (Is. 5: 11, 22.)
10. Why has he pronounced his woe? (Is. 28: 7, 8.)
11. Are drunkards likely to get rich? (Prov. 23: 29, 30.)
12. What are the consequences of drinking? (Prov. 23: 31.)
13. What will be the result if we disregard this advice? (Prov. 23: 32.)
14. Is it wise to tamper with strong drink? (Prov. 20: 1.)
15. What was the first temperance society? (Jer. 35: 6-8.)
17. What blessing did God promise upon the first temperance society? (Jer. 35: 18, 19.)
18. Is temperance a vice? (Jer. 35: 18, 21.)
19. When is temperance a virtue? —(Gal. 5: 22, 23.)
20. Tobacco and opium were not known when the Bible was written, so that they are not mentioned by name in the Bible; but is there any thing in the Bible that covers all intemperate habits? (Hou. 14: 31.)

Temperance Toast.

The Old and the New: May there be nothing but cold water between them.

Woman, the best spirit of this temperance age; she is far more fabricating and a thousand-fold dearer than wine.

May no young man become wedded to his cup; and he who has a wife, may he never lick her liquor.

Our Soldiers, who emptied so many gun-barrels, bury they never empty beer or whisky barrels—never receive the fire of the enemy in their faces—never fall under the influence of grape-shot.

A NATIONAL PROHIBITORY LAW.—WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—In the Senate today Mr. Sumner offered a petition for a national prohibitory law and one asking an amendment to the constitution to secure temperance. Mr. Scott presented a memorial for an amendment to the constitution forbidding the election to office of persons addicted to drinking intoxicating liquors. Mr. Fenton presented a similar petition.

A dignified and consequential officer of the marine corps was passing up Fulton street, when he was accosted by a brother officer, who, touching him familiarly on the shoulder, said: "Well, broom, how are you?" "Excuse me," was the haughty reply. "I wish you would remember that there is a handle to my name?" "Oh, yes—certainly. How are you, broom handle?"

Something like two hundred thousand copies of the recent speeches of Messrs. Sumner, Schurz, Trumbull and other "reconciliationists," were sent into New Hampshire. They were folded and carried through the mails at Government expense.

At Washington the committee on Ways and Means have agreed to reduce the duty on steel from 1 1/2 to 1 cent, and on steel railway bars from 1 cent to 1/2.

A revolt in the Missouri Penitentiary was discovered and frustrated on the 14th, without serious result.

A BIT OF ADVICE FOR BOYS.—"You are made to be kind," says Horace Mann, "generous and magnanimous. If there is a boy in the school who has a club foot don't let him know that you ever saw it. If there is a boy with ragged clothes, don't talk about rags in his hearing. If there is a lame boy, assign him some part of the game which does not require running. If there is a hungry one, give him a part of your dinner. If there is a dull one, help him to get his lesson. If there is a bright one, be not envious of him: for if one boy is proud of his talents, and another is envious of them, there are two great wrongs, and no more talents than before. If a larger or stronger boy has injured you, and is sorry for it, forgive him, and request the teacher not to punish him. All the school will show by their countenance how much better it is than to have a great fist."

Old Eye Makes a Speech.

BY EDWARD CARSWELL.

I was made to be eaten And not to be drank; To be threshed in a barn, Not to soak in a tank. I come as a blessing When put through a mill; As a blight and a curse When run through a still. Make me up into loaves, And your children are fed; But if into a drink, I will starve them instead. In bread I'm a servant, The eater shall rule; In drink I am a master, The drinker a fool. Then remember the warning, My strength I'll employ; If eaten, to strengthen; If drank, to destroy.

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